AG'T. C. C. EARLY AND UTE INDIANS

There has been more or less criticism of Acting Indian Agent C. C. Early and his conduct of Indian affairs. In an interview, "Acting Agent Early gives out in detail the main facts behind several important matters that are of public interest.

Sale of Indian Ponies.

It was reported that the Agent was having rounded up all the ponies on the range variously estimated in numbers from two to five thousand head, and that these ponies were being held and handled at the agency waiting for Eastern buyers, until the ponies were actually "eating their heads off" and were getting poor, all to the loss of the Indians. This unfair treatment to the Redmen, it is alleged, could have been averted by selling to local bidders who were offering $5 per head and would have paid the money and taken the cayuses

Mr. Early set forth the facts as being far from the report It is true that two round up squads of Indian police and employees are in the hills bringing in the wild ponies.

Two hundred head are now in the Indian pastures in the vicinity of Whiterocks "But," said Mr. Earley, "it is not to sell them that they are rounded up It is part of a broad plan to provide the Ute Indians with useful work animals" The Agent then explained that the Government has spent a large sum of money for good stallions for the Indians and in order to produce horses that will be of value to the Indians the cayuse stallions must be got rid of, also, the mares that are too small or otherwise unfit. It is to make these segregations and start the raising of horses that are fit for farm work that the round-up is undertaken But it will require time to accomplish the end in view. In the meantime the Indian Agent is interesting horse buyers from all over the country and by the late summer or early fall a sale of a dozen or more car loads of ponies will take place and enough buyers will be here to get reasonable prices for the ponies This money will go toward building up the frams

The Sun Dance.

Another impression has gone out to the effect that Whites are to be excluded from the Sun dance which closes on the 4th of July. Mr. Early exlained that he had not made any such order. He has taken up the matter with the Indians to induce them to get the dance over with quickly and get back onto their farms and attend to the watering of the crops

"The Government," said Mr Early, "has spent a lot of money to get proper tools and horses for the Indians to enable them to farm successfully. Now it is my duty to encourage the Indians to not stay away and let the grain dry up, but get through with the dance and look after their crops. After a while they won't need to be told to do it."

The Agent gave out the statement that the white people, heretofore had contributed liberally of money to keep the festivities going at these dances in order to keep the Indians together as long as they had any money to spend. "It is a wiser policy," said he "to have less exploiting of these poor Indians, hence I forbid the contributions and have refused to grant refreshment stand privileges during the dance."

Randlett Bridge.

It is reported that Agent Early blocked the way of the bridge across the Uintah river at Randlett. Mr. Early is indignant over the foolish charge. The fact is the Department at Washington, sent a telegram asking a recommendation as to appropriating the necessary money from the Indian funds for such a bridge. The Acting Agent deemed the farm improvement of far greater value to the Indians, very few of whom would be benefitted by the bridge, hence he wired the department that he thought it not proper to use Indian funds for such a bridge However, he made it plain that a bridge was needed and should be built if a Federal appropriation could be made from some other fund In the matter of the bridge at Duchesne City he has stood with the citizens to compel the contractors to rush the work It is thought that the Duchesne City bridge will be ready for traffic in ten days.